

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05
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PA-01 /069 W

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O 291208Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8517

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1902

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV WA SF

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: ZAMBIAN PLANS FOR FRONT LINE SUMMIT

1. AMBASSADORS LOW AND MCHENRY MET WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MARK CHONA AT HIS HOME MONDAY EVENING. CHONA REPORTED THAT PRIOR TO LUANDA STOP KAUNDA HAD DECIDED AGAINST ASKING FOR A FRONTLINE SUMMIT IN VIEW OF MACHEL'S ABSENCE IN CHINA. THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN KAUNDA AND NETO AT LUANDA. THE TWO MEN DID NOT DISCUSS NAMIBIA BUT DECIDED TO MEET ON SATURDAY JUNE 3 AT HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA AND A NUMBER OF BILATERAL MATTERS. SHORTLY
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AFTERWARDS (CHONA SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF JUNE 10) A FULL FRONTLINE SUMMIT WOULD BE CALLED. CHONA SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO MEETING PRECEDURE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE SINCE NETO WAS A KEY PLAYER AND THE OTHER FRONTLINE STATES WERE ALREADY IN ALMOST COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSALS.

2. CHONA WAS IN A PARTICULARLY OPEN AND EXPANSIVE MOOD. HE STATED

THAT ZAMBIA AND OTHER FRONTLINE STATES HAD BEEN RESERVED ABOUT THE INITIATIVE OF THE FIVE BUT SAW THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AS A SIGN THAT THE WEST MEANT BUSINESS. CHONA THOUGHT THAT NOW WAS THE TIME FOR SWAPO TO COME ABOARD.

3. CHONA SHOWED LITTLE INSIGHT INTO THE WORKINGS OF SWAPO. HE SAW NUJOMA AS AN INDECISIVE LEADER AND WAS NOT SURE WHAT ADVICE NUJOMA WAS RECEIVING FROM THE SOVIETS. CHONA WAS ALSO UNSURE OF ANGOLA'S POSITION ON THE INITIATIVE AND SEVERAL TIMES CAREFULLY SEPARATED ANGOLA'S POSITION FROM THE SUPPORTIVE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER FRONTLINE STATES. HE SUGGESTED THAT NETO SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO REDUCE ANGOLA'S DEPENDENCE ON CUBA. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT ADVICE ANGOLA MIGHT BE RECEIVING FROM THE SOVIETS.

4. ON BEHALF OF THE CONTACT GROUP, CHONA WAS GIVEN THE PAPER CONTAINING RESPONSES TO THE REMAINING ISSUES RAISED BY SWAPO. WE STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. CHONA EXPRESSED HIS THANKS, NOTED THAT THE PAPER WOULD COME IN HANDY FOR KAUNDA'S MEETING WITH NETO AND PROMISED TO HOLD THE PAPER CLOSELY.

5. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY INFORMED CHONA THAT HE WAS NOT INCLINED TO VISIT LUANDA ON HIS CURRENT VISIT. CHONA ARGUED THAT CONTACT WITH NUJOMA AND NETO PRIOR TO THE KAUNDA-NETO MEETING WAS IMPORTANT AND URGED THAT MCHENRY GO AHEAD TO LUANDA. SPECIFICALLY, HE

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STATED THAT ANY U.S. CONTACT WITH NETO WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE. MCHENRY WAS NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT VISIT TO LUANDA BUT NOTED THAT NASCIMENTO WAS SCHEDULED TO BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND THAT PERHAPS SOME CONTACT COULD BE MADE IN NEW YORK.

6. SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING WITH CHONA, MCHENRY, LOW, CLINGERMAN, NACH AND TIERNEY MET WITH THE LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP AND REVIEWED THE DISCUSSION WITH SWAPO. IN RESPONSE TO CHONA'S REQUEST WE DID NOT REPEAT TO THEM THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR THE FULL FRONTLINE MEETING HE HAD MENTIONED TO US BUT SIMPLY SAID THAT THE ZAMBIANS LOOKED FORWARD TO A MEETING SOON.

7. WE ALSO INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE CONTINUING STRONG EMOTIONAL REACTION TO THE CASSINGA RAID (REF LUSAKA 1900); THE ABSENCE OF LEADING ANGOLAN OFFICIALS; THE POSSIBILITY THAT NUJOMA WOULD BE OUT OF LUANDA OR WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE; AND OPPOSITION WITHIN THE CONTACT GROUP ALL ARGUED AGAINST LUANDA VISIT. WE ALSO NOTED THE CURRENT CLIMATE IN U.S.-ANGOLAN RELATIONS. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE QUICKLY SUGGESTED THAT U.S.-ANGOLAN RELATIONS WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN HIS MIND BUT SWITCHED TO USUAL UK OPPOSITION T ANY SITUATION WHERE U.S. ACTS ALONE WHEN TOLD

THAT OUR LAST WORD FROM THE ANGOLANS WAS FAVORABLE TO A VISIT.
THE FRENCH ARGUED THAT VISIT MIGHT BE THE FIVE'S ONLY CONTACT
WITH NUJOMA FOR SOME TIME AND MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO KAUNDA.
CANADIAN AND GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE SILENT.

8. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, MCHENRY IS NOT INCLINED TO GO TO
LUANDA. UNLESS THERE IS SOME NEW DEVELOPMENT IN POSSIBLE MEETING
WITH KAUNDA TOMORROW AND UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE MCHENRY
PLANS TO DEPART LUSAKA MAY 30. WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC PLANS LATER.
OUR FAILURE TO CONTACT NUJOMA INFORMALLY WILL MEAN THAT WE
HAVE PLACED ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET AND WILL NOT HAVE
PROVIDED KAUNDA WITH MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE. IT WOULD SEEM ESSENTIAL
THEREFORE FOR MEETINGS WITH ANGOLANS IN NEW YORK, IF POSSIBLE.

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